

Commissioner of Patents
Serial No. 10/725,213
Reply to Office Action dated January 27, 2005
Page 3

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A terminal for insertion into a receiver slot of a bulb socket assembly, wherein the terminal comprises:
 - a. a lamp bulb connecting blade with at least one prong;
 - b. a first terminal surface of the blade and a second terminal surface of the blade that are opposed from each other and connected to and integral with a base that is perpendicular to the first and second terminal surfaces, wherein at least one of the first or second terminal surfaces is integral with the at least one prong; ~~and~~
 - c. a side wall that is integral with and connects the first terminal surface to the second terminal surface, the side wall being perpendicular to the base; and
 - d. at least three alignment features located on and extending outward from the first and second terminal surfaces, wherein at least one so that each of the first and second terminal surfaces has at least one alignment feature extending therefrom, with each of the alignment features being positioned on a portion of the first and second terminal surfaces that is in close proximity to the side wall and with each of the alignment features being positioned relative to one another on the first and second terminal surfaces to stabilize the at least one terminal once inserted into the receiver slot of the at least three alignment features is located each of the first and second terminal surfaces.
2. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the at least two alignment features are bumps extending outward from the terminal surfaces of the blade.
3. (Original) The terminal of claim 2, wherein the bumps are partial spheres.
4. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein at least two alignment features are located on the first terminal surface.

Commissioner of Patents
Serial No. 10/725,213
Reply to Office Action dated January 27, 2005
Page 4

5. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein at least two alignment features are located on the second terminal surface.
6. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein the at least one prong comprises a first prong and a second prong.
7. (Original) The terminal of claim 6, wherein the first terminal surface is integral with the first prong and the second terminal surface is integral with the second prong.
8. (Canceled).
9. (Canceled).
10. (Original) The terminal of claim 1, wherein at least two alignment features are located on each of the first and second terminal surfaces.
11. (Currently Amended) The terminal of claim 1, ~~further wherein the base~~ [[comprising]] comprises a cover plate ~~that is integral with the blade so that the blade and the first and second terminal surfaces are substantially perpendicular to the cover plate.~~
12. (Original) The terminal of claim 11, further comprising a terminal lead end that is integral with the cover plate.
13. (Original) The terminal of claim 12, wherein the terminal lead end is substantially perpendicular to the blade and substantially parallel to the cover plate.
14. (Currently Amended) A bulb socket assembly comprising:
 - a. a bulb accepting body portion with at least one receiver slot that has a first wall and a second wall opposed from each other;
 - b. a terminal accepting body portion connected to the bulb connecting body portion;
and
 - c. at least one terminal positioned in the bulb socket, the at least one terminal having

Commissioner of Patents
Serial No. 10/725,213
Reply to Office Action dated January 27, 2005
Page 5

- (i) a blade with at least one prong extending into the bulb accepting body portion through the at least one receiver slot, the blade having a first terminal surface positioned and located next to the first wall of the receiver slot,
- (ii) ~~a lead end connected to the blade and positioned in the terminal accepting body portion;~~
- (iii) ~~a first terminal surface of the blade that is positioned and located next to the first wall of the at least one receiver slot;~~
- (iv) a second terminal surface opposed to the first terminal surface and that is positioned and located next to the second wall of the at least one receiver slot, and
- (iii) a side wall that is integral with and connects the first terminal surface to the second terminal surface,
- (iv) a base connected to and integral with the first and second terminal surfaces, the base being perpendicular to the terminal surfaces and side wall, and
- (v) at least three alignment features positioned on and extending outward from the first and second terminal surfaces, so that each of the first and second terminal surfaces has at least one alignment feature extending therefrom, with each of the alignment features being positioned on a portion of the first and second terminal surfaces that is in close proximity to the side wall and with each of the alignment features being positioned relative to one another on the first and second terminal surfaces to stabilize the at least one terminal in the at least one receiver slot ~~at least one of the at least three alignment features are located on each of the first and second terminal surfaces~~ and so that each of the alignment features make contact with one of the first or second walls of the at least one

Commissioner of Patents
Serial No. 10/725,213
Reply to Office Action dated January 27, 2005
Page 6

receiver slot[[:]].

~~wherein at least one of the first or second terminal surfaces is integral with the at least one prong.~~

15. (Original) The terminal of claim 14, wherein the alignment features properly align the terminal in the bulb socket during insertion into the receiver slot.
16. (Canceled).
17. (Currently Amended) The bulb socket assembly of claim 14, wherein the base of the terminal further comprises a cover plate ~~that is integral with the blade so that the blade and the first and second terminal surfaces are substantially perpendicular to the cover plate.~~
18. (Currently Amended) The bulb socket assembly of claim 17, wherein the cover plate is integral with ~~the~~ the lead end of the terminal.
19. (Currently Amended) The bulb socket assembly of claim 18, wherein the terminal lead end ~~[[that]]~~ is substantially perpendicular to the blade and substantially parallel to the cover plate.
20. (Original) The bulb socket assembly of claim 19, further comprising at least one wire connected to the lead end of the at least one terminal.
21. (Original) The bulb socket assembly of claim 20, further comprising a sealing material positioned in the terminal accepting body portion, the sealing material substantially covering the cover plate and the lead end with the wire connected thereto of the at least one terminal, wherein the sealing material seals the at least one wire to the terminal lead end and wherein the cover plate prevents the sealing material from entering into the bulb accepting portion.
22. (Canceled).
23. (Canceled).
24. (Original) The bulb socket assembly of claim 14, wherein at least two alignment features are located on the first terminal surface.

Commissioner of Patents
Serial No. 10/725,213
Reply to Office Action dated January 27, 2005
Page 7

25. (Original) The bulb socket assembly of claim 14, wherein at least two alignment features are located on the second terminal surface.
26. (Original) The bulb socket assembly of claim 14, wherein at least two alignment features are located on each of the first and second terminal surfaces.
27. (Original) The bulb socket assembly of claim 14, wherein the alignment features are bumps.
28. (Currently Amended) The bulb socket assembly of claim 14 27, wherein the alignment features are partial spheres.
29. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling a socket assembly, wherein the method comprises the steps of:
 - a. providing at least one terminal having
 - (i) a lamp bulb connecting blade with at least one prong,
 - (ii) a first terminal surface of the blade and a second terminal surface of the blade that are opposed from each other and connected to and integral with a base, wherein at least one of the first or second terminal surfaces is integral with the at least one prong,
 - (iii) a side wall that is integral with and connects the first terminal surface to the second terminal surface, the side wall, first terminal surface and second terminal surface all being perpendicular to the base.
 - (iv) at least three alignment features located on and extending outward from the first and second terminal surfaces, so that each of the first and second terminal surfaces has at least one alignment feature extending therefrom, with each of the alignment features being positioned on a portion of the first and second terminal surfaces that is in close proximity to the side wall and with each of the alignment features being positioned relative to one another on the first and second terminal surfaces to stabilize the at least one terminal wherein at least one of the at least three alignment features is located on

Commissioner of Patents
Serial No. 10/725,213
Reply to Office Action dated January 27, 2005
Page 8

~~each of the first and second terminal surfaces;~~

- b. providing a bulb socket with at least one receiver slot, wherein the receiver slot has a first wall and a second wall opposed from each other; and
 - c. inserting the at least one terminal into the receiver slot so that each of the at least three alignment features contact either the first wall or second wall of the receiver slot.
30. (Currently Amended) The method of assembling a socket assembly of claim 29, wherein the base of the terminal comprises a cover plate. ~~lamp bulb connecting blade is substantially perpendicular to and integral with a cover plate.~~
31. (Original) The method of assembling a socket assembly of claim 30, further comprising the step of substantially covering the receiver slot with the cover plate.
32. (Original) The method of assembling a socket assembly of claim 31, further comprising the step of substantially covering the cover plate with a sealing material.
33. (New) A terminal for a bulb socket assembly, the terminal comprising:
 - a lamp bulb connecting blade including a pair of terminal surfaces, each of the terminal surfaces having a prong;
 - a side wall having a portion extending between the pair of terminal surfaces, the side wall including a latch;
 - a terminal lead; and
 - a cover plate connected to at least one of the terminal surface, side wall and terminal lead, wherein the cover plate is generally perpendicular to the side wall and the terminal surface.
34. (New) The terminal of claim 33, wherein at least one of the terminal surfaces includes at least one alignment feature.
35. (New) A bulb socket assembly comprising:
 - a bulb accepting body including a bulb accepting body portion, a terminal accepting body

Commissioner of Patents
Serial No. 10/725,213
Reply to Office Action dated January 27, 2005
Page 9

portion and at least one receiver slot; and

at least one terminal comprising

a lamp bulb connecting blade including at least one terminal surface having a
prong that at least partially extends into the bulb accepting body portion through the
receiver slot,

a side wall,

a terminal lead, and

a cover plate connected to at least one of the terminal surface, the side wall and
the terminal lead,

wherein the cover plate is generally perpendicular to the side wall and the
terminal surface.

36. (New) The bulb socket of claim 35, further including a wire connected to the terminal lead and a
sealing material received in the terminal accepting body portion and substantially covering a side
of the cover plate, the terminal lead and a portion of the wire, and wherein the cover plate is
positioned to generally inhibit passage of the sealing material into the bulb accepting body
portion.
37. (New) The bulb socket of claim 35, wherein the terminal surface includes at least one alignment
feature.
38. (New) The bulb socket of claim 35, wherein the side wall includes a latch.
39. (New) The bulb socket of claim 35, wherein the lamp bulb connecting blade includes a pair of
terminal surfaces.